

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE



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HJR 32 – Rural Health Transformation Program Sponsor Statement 02.23.26

House Joint Resolution 32 expresses the Alaska Legislature’s formal commitment to the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), establishing clear legislative priorities to guide the implementation of one of the most significant federal health investments in our state’s history. In July 2025, Trump signed H.R. 1 into law which established the RHTP, a five-year program. The Center of Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) awarded Alaska \$272 million per year totaling, \$1.4 billion over the five years. While Alaska is poised to benefit from this program, the strict guidelines and accelerated timeframe create significant limitations to fully transform Alaska’s health care system.

Recognizing that a "one-size-fits-all" approach is insufficient for Alaska’s unique geographic challenges, the resolution specifically calls for increased flexibility and more time to coordinate with federal partners. It urges the Governor to work expeditiously with CMS to obtain critical clarification on allowable fund uses, particularly regarding infrastructure investments, broadband purchases, and workforce incentive structures. Furthermore, it calls upon Alaska’s congressional delegation to advocate for maximum state flexibility and to defend the full funding allocation against any redistribution efforts. Because federal law requires the state to enact enabling legislation by December 31, 2027, this resolution acts as a necessary signal of institutional continuity, ensuring the Alaska Legislature and state administration can maximize their collaboration in order to fulfill the RHTP award’s federal requirements.

Improving health care access in Alaska is a priority that transcends political differences. By passing HJR 32, we provide the necessary guidance to state agencies and federal partners to ensure the successful implementation of these transformative resources.